

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2721

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 3435

NODIS

PRETORIA FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NYERERE'S REACTION TO BBC BROADCAST

1. JOAN WICKEN, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT NYERERE, ASKED ME TO STOP BY HER OFFICE SEPTEMBER 17 TO TELL ME THAT NYERERE WAS "VERY UPSET" BY BBC BROADCAST EVENING SEPTEMBER 16 WHICH "IMPLIED" THAT SECRETARY HAD SAID AFTER LEAVING DAR ES SALAAM THAT NYERERE WAS "LESS TOUGH PRIVATELY THAN PUBLICLY."

2. WICKEN HAD NOT HEARD BORADCAST SO WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER REMARK WAS ATTRIBUTED TO "SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL" OR WAS MERELY PART OF COMMENTARY, BUT PRESIDENT WAS "REALLY VERY ANGRY ABOUT IT." HE HAD CAREFULLY SAID MUCH LESS ABOUT HIS DOUBTS ON NAMIBIA SOLUTION IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAN HE HAD SAID PRIVATELY TO SECRETARY. ONE THING HE PRIDED HIMSELF ON WAS THAT HE DID NOT BARGAIN; HE ALWAYS PUT FORTH NOT MAXIMUM BUT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS. HE NEVER SPOKE WITH TWO VOICES; IF IDEA GOT AROCND THAT HEHNID, HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK OB BEHANC OF OTHER AFRICANS WOULD BE DESTROYED.

3. I SAID I WOULD LET SECRETARY KNOW OF PRESIDENT'S CONCERN. I KNOW SECRETARY HAD GREATEST PERSONAL REPSECT FOR PRESIDENT NYERERE. I HAD NOT HEARD BBC BROADCAST EITHER BUT WAS ALWAYS LEARY OF TAKING PRESS COMMENTARY TOO SERIOUSLY. I PERSONALLY

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THOUGHT "TWO VOICES" PROBLEM IN TANZANIA SOMETIMES EXISTED, NOT

WITH PRESIDENT BUT WITH GOVERNMENT ON ONE HAND AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ORGANS, STUDENTS, PRESS, ETC., ON OTHER. I HAD CERTAINLY HEARD NEGATIVE NOTES ON PART OF LATTER DURING PAST FEW DAYS AND THEY DISTURBED ME DEEPLY.

4. WICKEN AGREED RE MEDIA, SAYING STATE HOUSE WAS IN DESPAIR ABOUT GETTING IT ORGANIZED (WHICH I HALF BELIEVE) BUT INSISTED STATE HOUSE KNEW NOTHING OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND WOULD HAVE STOPPED THEM IF IT DID (WHICH I DO NOT BELIEVE). ANYWAY, SHE SAID, NYERERE WAS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY WHEN THEY COULD FOR FIRST TIME BEGIN TO PUT TOGETHER WHOLE PICTURE.

5. COMMENT: WICKEN WAS PROBABLY DELIBERATELY CHOSEN AS BACK DOOR UNOFFICIAL WAY OF EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT BBC BROADCAST. I SEE NO NEED RESPOND IN ANY WAY TO HER MESSAGE, BUT, IF QUOTE WAS IN FACT GRATUITOUS INVENTION OF NEWSPAPERMEN, BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL NEXT WEEK FOR SECRETARY TO INDICATE THAT TO NYERERE.

6. MY ASSESSMENT GENERAL SITUATION AND ATTITUDES HERE IN WAKE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL FOLLOW SEPTEMBER 18. SPAIN

BT

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